

Serial No. 10/688,812

Attorney Docket: 1771.01

**REMARKS**

Claims are amended to reinstate the objected claims 13-15. Accordingly, the applicant has canceled the rejected claims 1-6 without prejudice, and the first objected claim 13 is incorporated to the rejected independent claim 7 that is to be the first independent claim after this amendment. The second objected claim 14 remains depended from claim 7.

Claims 24-30 are newly added to incorporate the third objected claim 15 which is incorporated with the rejected claim 7 to form claim 24 that is to be the second independent claim. Claims 25-30 are depended from claim 24 in selective repetition of the dependent claims of claim 7.

No new matters are included in the claim amendment, and the amendment does not introduce any limitations to the claims and does not narrow the scope or the breadth of the claims in any way.

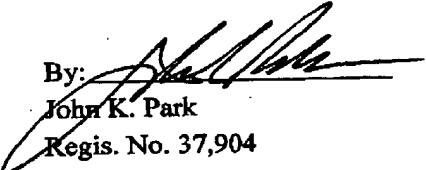
**CONCLUSION**

The applicants believe that claims 7-12, 14 and 16-30 are now in condition for allowance; therefore, reexamination, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectively requested.

Very truly yours,

Park & Sutton LLP

Dated: 1/7, 2005

By:   
John K. Park  
Regis. No. 37,904

3255 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1110  
Los Angeles, California 90010  
Tel: (213)389-3777

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